

Bright Beginnings Kindergarten Curriculum

Bright Beginnings Kindergarten curriculum includes mathematics, language arts, reading readiness, social studies, science, music, art and physical education. All of our learning activities are age-appropriate using many hand's-on activities, manipulatives, and recently published learning materials. We'd like to take a few minutes to review what our Kindergartners will learn during the school year.

Mathematics. The major objectives for our kindergarten math program include the following concepts:

- Classify and group objects by attributes.
- Discriminate and continue a visual pattern.
- Construct, identify and use the appropriate numeral for any set with a cardinal number 0-10.
- Write numbers.
- Compare and order objects by attributes.
- Compare and equalize sets.
- Compare and order size on the basis of weight and measurement.
- Compare and order events on the basis of time and duration.
- Add and subtract using manipulatives.
- Simple fractions -- understand the concept of one-half with concrete objects.
- Estimate and tally results of simple probability activities.
- Describe and identify shapes: circle, square, triangle, rectangle.
- Construct and interpret simple graphs
- Understand the concept of time; telling time, units of time – hours, minutes, seconds
- Understand the concept of money; recognize coins, make simple change

Language arts. Bright Beginnings' language arts program focuses on four basic areas: oral skills, listening skills, literature and handwriting. These important skills are closely linked to our reading readiness activities and are integrated whenever possible.

Oral skills:

- Orally share experiences
- Speak in complete sentences
- Participate in informal discussions
- Ask questions and respond appropriately.
- Sequence ideas logically when speaking.

Listening Skills:

- Discriminate and identify sounds.
- Distinguish like and different sounds.
- Identify rhyming words.
- Attend to stories in order to recall information
- Carry out simple and multiple directions.

Literature:

- Show enthusiasm for a variety of literature – folk tales, nursery rhymes, fantasy, etc.
- Discuss the setting, details, and characters of a story or poem.
- Discuss favorite parts or ideas generated by stories or poems.
- Show an understanding of a variety of illustrations in books (i.e., watercolor, line drawing, etc.)
- Support a personal evaluation of a story. ("I like it because _____.")

Handwriting:

- Practice the proper grip of pencils and crayons.
- Build fine skills by coloring, drawing, painting, and playing with clay
- Trace letters and shapes

Writing:

- Creative writing is introduced by having children label their pictures.
- Children will learn to write short stories.

Reading Readiness: Most kindergarten children are not reading when they enter school in September. The kindergarten year provides the foundation for developing this complex process. Before your child learns to read, they will have to:

- Develop skills for accurately processing information.
- Master pre-reading skills.

Processing information: Your child must be able to process or “decode” the symbols seen before interpreting or reading them. These are the skills we will practice in kindergarten:

- Visual discrimination: “Seeing” the differences between objects and being able to sort,
 - match, and compare them.
- Visual memory: Recalling what was seen. This is especially important in later years for
 - “sight word” mastery.
- Auditory discrimination: Identifying words that sound alike, different, and those that rhyme.
- Auditory memory: Following a set of directions; repeating what is heard.
- Directionality: Understanding and applying the concepts of upper, lower, left and right.
 - Directionality helps children organize and label their world. Mastery of these
 - directions develops a sense of precision, accuracy and attention to detail.

Pre-reading skills: Bright Beginnings teaches the following pre-reading skills in kindergarten.

- Recognizing and reading upper and lower case letters.
- Rhyming words.
- Associating consonant sounds with letters.
- Describing a story.

Social studies and Science: The kindergarten program includes social studies and science-related goals. Often these subjects are not treated as separate lessons, but are integrated with other activities.

Social Studies:

- Self
- Family
- School
- Community Helpers
- New Fairfield
- Government
- Native American Study
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Science:

- Objects and their properties: shape, color, size
- Comparing objects: weight, volume, quantity
- Human body: five senses, nutrition, body, growth
- Animals and their habitats
- Plants and plant cycles
- Weather and the seasons
- Astronomy
- Magnets

Children learn by doing... Bright Beginnings supplies Weekly Reader for each child and schedules field trips to reinforce the social studies and science lessons learned in the classroom. These hand's-on experiences bring science and social studies to life for our children.

Music: Young children are naturally responsive to music and enjoy all types of musical experiences. Our music program offers an opportunity to explore and develop the following skills:

- Singing a variety of songs.
- Learning about and playing instruments.
- Creating their own music.
- Listening experiences.
- Moving to music; rhythms, dramatization, dances, and games.
- Developing a music vocabulary and an understanding of the basic rudiments of music.

Not only will the children learn about music, but will also develop and reinforce listening skills, coordination, self-expression, emotional responses and confidence.

Art: Through art, a child's imagination soars. With age-appropriate art instruction, children gain new ways of self-expression and begin seeing the world in different ways.

Create:

- Design original and imaginative works
- Express visual ideas
- Develop observation skills
- Demonstrate knowledge and application of materials, technique and forming processes

Grow:

- Develop a sense of self-confidence, maturation and direction
- Help develop a child's physical coordination and motor skills
- Provide opportunities for children to work together cooperatively
- Develop a sense of responsibility and respect for materials, the works of others and the environment

Know:

- Learn about arts and crafts of the world's culture

Value:

- Participate in school and community activities related to art

Physical Education: Bright Beginnings physical education program is designed to get children moving, and teach them that exercise is fun. While having fun, the children are really working on the development of their gross motor skills.

Organized activities are designed to foster gross motor development and to develop large muscle groups provide the foundation of our physical education activities:

- Running
- Jumping
- Hopping
- Skipping
- Galloping
- Ball activities
- Body awareness – how the body moves and functions

The following pages detail Bright Beginnings' curriculum by month. You will see how the children progress to increasingly more challenging work while continuing to reinforce newly learned skills.

Bright Beginnings'

Monthly Kindergarten Curriculum

September	Letters: sound/symbol correlation (consonants Bb,Cc,Dd,Ff, Gg) Formation and recognition of numbers 0-3 Comparing and equalizing sets Classification and grouping of objects by attributes Review shapes and colors Safety at home, school and neighborhood Apple unit including Fall changes and Johnny Appleseed All about me Sorting: color, animals, sizes Manners: sharing, listening, and cooperating Community Helpers
October	Letters: sound/symbol correlation (consonants Hh, Jj, Kk, Ll, Mm) Formation and recognition of number 4-13 Exploration of weather Native Americans Christopher Columbus Halloween Fire Prevention Week Pumpkin Unit <i>Event: Parent Orientation Night</i>
November	Letters: sound/symbol correlation (consonants Mm, Nn, Pp, Qq, Rr) Formation and recognition of numbers 14-20 Comparison of objects: volume and mass, dry and liquid Native Americans Pilgrims The Harvest/ Thanksgiving Feast Nutrition and food The election and our President
December	Letters: sound/symbol correlation (consonants Ss, Tt, Vv) Numbers: formation review, writing 1-20 Recognizing and evaluation pennies and nickels Patterns Magnet fun December holidays: Hanukkah, Kwanza, Christmas around the world <i>Events: Holiday Theater Show</i>
January	Letters: sound/symbol correlation (consonants Ww, Xx, Yy, Zz) Introduction to addition Weights and measures Introduction to astronomy Graphing Government – writing to the President Money Communication Seasonal changes: winter including polar animals Ice, snow, and freezing cold Winter clothing Martin Luther King, Jr. Shared reading groups

February	<p>Letters: sound/symbol correlation (vowels – Aa, Ee, Ii, Oo, Uu) Subtraction Love and friendship February celebrations: President's Day, Valentine's Day, Groundhog's Day</p> <p><i>Events: Chinese New Year Celebration Valentine's Day Social</i></p>
March	<p>Sound/symbol recognition ("at" family, "an" family, "ap" family) Counting by tens Journals Windy weather Sequencing/order Telling time Ireland Animal life St. Patrick's Day Dinosaurs Birds</p>
April	<p>Sound/symbol recognition ("ad" family, "ag" family, "am" family) Counting by twos and by fives Good deeds Spring holidays Spring Plants</p> <p><i>Event: National Kindergarten Day</i></p>
May	<p>Understanding the use of pronouns Autobiography project Advanced patterning Simple fractions Capitalization and punctuation Memorial Day Mother's Day Sorting and classifying Review sounds "an," "ap," "am," and "ag"</p> <p><i>Event: Spring Conferences</i></p>
June	<p>Multi-meaning words Father's Day Review addition and subtraction Make a book with illustrations</p> <p><i>Event: Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony</i></p>

Kindergarten Field Trips To Be Announced